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Claims

1. A parasitocidal composition comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one bioadhesive polymer and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof together with at least one physiologically acceptable carrier.
- 5 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the bioadhesive polymer constitutes from 0.25 to 10% w/w of the total composition.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the bioadhesive polymer is a carbomer related substance.
4. A composition according to claim 3, wherein the carbomer related substance
10 constitutes from 0.25 to 2.0% w/w of the total composition.
5. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the physiological carrier is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: alcohols, water and silicone based compounds.
6. A composition according to claim 5, wherein the alcohols are selected from
15 any of the following either alone or in combination: isopropanol, ethanol and industrial methylated spirit.
7. A composition according to claim 5, wherein the silicone based compounds are selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: cyclomethicone, hydroxy-terminated linear siloxane.
- 20 8. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises at least one surfactant.
9. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the surfactant comprises an anionic surfactant which is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: monovalent alkyl carboxylates, polyvalent alkyl carboxylates, acyl

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lactylates, alkyl ether carboxylates, N-acyl sarcosinates, N-acyl glutamates, fatty acid-polypeptide condensates, sulphuric acid esters, ester-linked sulphonates, alpha olefin sulphonates, phosphated ethoxylated alcohols.

10. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the surfactant comprises a
5 cationic surfactant which is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: monoalkyl and dialkyl quaternary ammonium compounds, amido amines and aminimides.

11. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the surfactant comprises a non-
ionic surfactant which is selected from any of the following either alone or in
10 combination: polyoxyalcohols, polyoxypropylenes, amine oxides, fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

12. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the amphoteric/zwitterionic is
selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: lecithin, N-
substituted alkyl amides, N-alkyl betaines, sulfo betaines and N-alkyl beta
15 aminopropionates.

13. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pH
of the composition is in the range from 4.5 to 8.0.

14. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
composition further comprises co-monomers,

20 15. A composition according to claim 14, wherein the co-monomers are C₁₀-C₃₀
alkyl acrylates.

16. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
composition further comprises at least one additional component having ovicidal
activity.

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17. A composition according to claim 16, wherein the additional component having ovicidal activity is selected from any of the following either alone or in combination: terpenes, d-phenothrin, malathion, carbaryl, tea tree oil and neem oil.
18. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
5 composition comprises 0.25 to 1.0% w/w carbomer together with up to 10% w/w of a cyclic siloxane.
19. A composition according to claim 18, wherein the cyclicsiloxane is decamethyl cyclopentasiloxane.
20. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the
10 composition comprises from 0.25 to 1.0% w/w carbomer together with up to 60% w/w of an alcohol component.
21. A composition according to claim 20, wherein the alcohol component is IPA.
22. A composition according to claim 20 or claim 21, wherein the alcohol constitutes from 10 to 30% w/w of the total composition.
- 15 23. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the composition comprises from 0.25 to 1.0 w/w carbomer together with up to 10% w/w of a silicone component and from 10 to 30% w/w of IPA.
24. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the composition comprises from 0.25 to 1.0 w/w carbomer together with at least one
20 surfactant and IPA.
25. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the composition comprises at least one carbomer, at least one surfactant, IPA and an additional component which delivers ovicidal activity.

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26. A bioadhesive polymer for use in the treatment of lice in humans.

27. A bioadhesive polymer for use in the preparation of a composition for the treatment of lice in humans.

28. A process for the preparation of a parasitocidal composition as described in
5 claim 1, comprising the steps of: bringing together at least one bioadhesive polymer,
and salts thereof, and at least one physiologically acceptable carrier.

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